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A Much-Used Song

IT seems to have been of French origin, the words by de Brinon, the music by the famous Lully. It was always sung by the young women of St. Cyr, when Louis XIV. entered the chapel of that school to hear the morning prayer. The words were:

"Grand Dieu, sauve le Roi!
Grand Dieu, venge le Roi!
Vive le Roi," etc.

It was translated and adapted to the House of Hanover by Handel, the German composer, and then became:

"Heiliger im Siegerkranz," etc.

In the reign of George I. of England, Henry Carey converted it into:

"God save our gracious King!
Long live our noble king!
God save the King!" etc.

Finally, the Rev. Samuel F. Smith rendered it into:

"My Country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty!
Of thee I sing!" etc.

Yankee Doodle

THE patriotic air, "Yankee Doodle," is supposed to have been written by Dr. Schuckburgh, a surgeon in the Continental army, in 1755. The occasion for the writing of this piece was the woefully undisciplined condition of the American army at that time. The song was taken as a joke by the soldiers, and they adopted it for their own march.

More to "Home, Sweet Home"

THERE are two verses of the song "Home, Sweet Home," which are known to few people, and which did not appear at the publication of the song.

In 1833 John Howard Payne wrote the following additional verses to the piece and presented them to an American woman who was living in London:

"To us, in despite of the absence of years,
How sweet the remembrance of home still appears!

From allurements abroad which but flatter the eye,
The unsatisfied heart turns and says with a sigh:

"Home, home, sweet, sweet home!
There's no place like home!
There's no place like home!"

"Your exile is blest with all fate can bestow;
But mine has been checkered with many a woe.
Yet, though different our fortunes, our thoughts are the same,

And both, as we think of Columbia, exclaim:
"Home, home, sweet, sweet home!"

Birth of a National Hymn

THE French National hymn, "La Marseillaise," was composed by a young French officer named Rouget de Lisle. De Lisle was stationed at Strasburg in 1792 during a famine which accompanied the revolution, and when food was scarce he used to try to forget the craving of his stomach by writing verses and indulging in a passionate love for music. He was a frequent visitor at the home of Baron de Diedrich, Mayor of Strasburg. The Baron liked him, and the female portion of the Baron's family enjoyed his boyish impulsiveness and often sang the songs he had written, while he accompanied them on his musical instruments.

One evening, when the gaunt clutch of the famine held the city of Strasburg even more tightly than usual, the Baron de Diedrich proposed that he and de Lisle should drink to the liberty of the country in the last bottle of wine remaining in the household. Ever ready for the taste of the beverage, de Lisle consented, and the bottle was brought. It was an unusually large one, and when the young officer had finished and it was time for him to return to his lodgings his head and heart were warm.

Entering his solitary chamber, he paused breathless, while a feeling that some great event was about to transpire swept over him. A moment he sought for inspiration in the palpitation of a citizen's heart, and then he turned like an artist to his instrument. His fingers ran over some chords, and then as in a dream he launched into "The Marseillaise," the soul-stirring, passionate song which cost France a hundred thousand lives and made the streets of Paris run blood.

In the morning when the young officer awoke he wrote down the words and the music and ran at once to the house of the Mayor. De Diedrich was not awake, but a servant called him, and he in turn called his wife. A few friends assembled, and the young officer sang. At the first verse the company grew pale, at the second tears fell, and at the end the assemblage broke into wild enthusiasm. Why not? The hymn of the nation had at last been found. But it was a hymn of horror, and the unfortunate de Diedrich marched bravely to the scaffold a few months later to the strains of the song which had been born in the heart of his friend and which his wife had been the first to play.

"The Marseillaise" was so named because soon after it became known it was sung at the adjournment of the clubs in Marseilles.



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